

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of screening for a substrate to a carrier-type transport protein, comprising:
 - (a) providing a library comprising different complexes, each complex comprising a compound and a reporter, the compound varying between different complexes;
 - (b) providing a population of cells, one or more of which expresses one or more carrier-type transport proteins;
 - (c) contacting the population of cells with a plurality of complexes from the library; and
 - (d) detecting a signal from the reporter of a complex while internalized within a cell, wherein the reporter preferentially generates the signal once the reporter is internalized within the cell, the signal thus providing an indication that a complex whose reporter generated the signal comprises a compound that is a substrate for a carrier-type transport protein.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reporter contains a cleavable site and the reporter is cleaved at the cleavable site after the complex is internalized within the cell.
4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein reporter comprises an agent that causes a morphological change upon internalization within a cell, and if a compound complexed with the reporter is a substrate for the carrier-type protein, the complex is transported by the carrier-type protein into a cell expressing the carrier-type protein, whereby the agent triggers a detectable morphological change in the cell.
5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 3, wherein the agent inhibits cytoskeleton formation.

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the reporter comprises a fluorophore and a quencher moiety, and if a compound complexed with the reporter is a substrate for the carrier-type transporter protein, the complex is transported by the carrier-type transport protein into a cell expressing the carrier-type transporter protein, whereby the quencher moiety becomes separated from the fluorophore such that a fluorescent signal is emitted by the fluorophore within the cell, and the detection step comprises detecting the fluorescent signal.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the reporter further comprises a cleavable linker that links the fluorophore and quencher moiety, the cleavable linker being cleaved after entry of the reporter into the cell.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the fluorophore and quencher moiety are joined via a linker that contains a site cleavable by an enzyme, and the population of cells express the enzyme.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the enzyme is an endogenous enzyme.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the enzyme is expressed from an exogenous sequence harbored by the population of cells.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the enzyme is a hydrolase.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the reporter comprises a detection moiety disposed to interact with an intracellular agent, the cells have the intracellular agent, and if a compound complexed with the reporter is a substrate for the carrier-type protein, the complex is transported by the carrier-type transport protein into a cell expressing the carrier-type transport protein, whereby the detection moiety interacts with the intracellular agent to generate a detectable signal, and the detection step comprises detecting the detectable signal.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the detection moiety is a nucleic-acid binding dye and the intracellular agent is a nucleic acid.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reporter comprises a substrate for an enzyme, and if a compound complexed with the reporter is a substrate for the carrier-type protein, the complex is transported by the carrier-type transport protein into a cell expressing the carrier-type protein and the enzyme, whereby the enzyme metabolizes the enzyme substrate to form a detectable product, and the detecting step comprises detecting the detectable product.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of luciferase, alkaline phosphatase, β -galactosidase, and β -glucouronidase.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the reporter comprises luciferin, and wherein the population of cells express luciferase, and the luciferase metabolizes the luciferin to generate the detectable product.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the luciferin is derivatized to bear a polar moiety to reduce passive uptake of complex.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein luciferin is joined to the complex via a cleavable site and an intracellular enzyme cleaves luciferin from the complex before luciferin can be metabolized by luciferase.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized within a cell through the activity of the carrier-type transport protein, the reporter promotes aggregation of subunits of a multimeric enzyme expressed within the population of cells, and the enzyme catalyzes production of a product that generates a detectable signal, the detecting step comprising detecting the detectable signal.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized in a cell through the activity of the carrier-type transport protein, the reporter promotes transcription from a promoter within a cell resulting in expression

of an expression product that generates a detectable signal, and the detecting step comprises detecting the detectable signal.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the expression product is an enzyme that catalyzes the production of the detectable signal.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized in at least one cell through the activity of the carrier-type transport protein, the reporter confers a selective advantage within the cell(s), and the detecting step comprises propagating the population of cells under conditions that enrich for cell(s) on which the selective advantage has been conferred.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized in a cell through the activity of the carrier-type transport protein, and the method further comprises washing cells to remove unincorporated complexes before the detecting step, whereby signal from reporter internalized within the cell is preferentially detected.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized in a cell through the activity of the carrier-type transport protein, the reporter is a fluorescent molecule, and the method further comprises contacting cells with a fluorescence quencher incapable of entering the cells to quench fluorescence of unincorporated complexes before the detecting step, whereby signal from reporter internalized within the cell is preferentially detected.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein
the population of cells comprise different cells that are located in a single reaction vessel;

contacting results in at least one complex being ~~bound to or~~ internalized within one of the cells; and

detecting comprises detecting the signal from the at least one complex.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the different cells comprise test cells and counterpart control cells, the test cells expressing one of the one or more carrier-type transport proteins while the control cells fail to express the transport protein expressed by the test cells;

the at least one complex is ~~bound to or~~ internalized within one of the test cells;
and

detecting further comprises detecting signal, if any, from the control cells.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
separately contacting the different cells with each of the plurality of complexes;
and

determining the identity of the cell(s) to which the at least one complex is ~~bound~~
~~or~~ internalized within.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein different cells have different distinguishable characteristics, and the method further comprises:

determining the identity of the cell to which the at least one complex is ~~bound or~~
internalized within from its distinguishable characteristic.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the distinguishable characteristics are different cellular morphologies.

30. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the distinguishable characteristics are different stains on the cells.

31. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the distinguishable characteristics are different markers located at the surface of the cells.

32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the different markers are different epitopes, the different epitopes being differentially stained with antibodies specific for the different epitopes, antibodies for different epitopes bearing different labels.

33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein one or more of the different epitopes is expressed from an endogenous nucleic acid sequence.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein one or more of the different epitopes is expressed from an exogenous nucleic acid sequence.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the population of cells are contained in a single reaction vessel; and contacting comprises contacting the cells within the reaction vessel with a plurality of different complexes, different complexes comprising different compounds, whereby at least one complex is bound to or internalized within the cells; and detecting comprises detecting signal from the at least one complex.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further comprising:
(d) separately contacting the population of cells within different reaction vessels with the different complexes such that cells within the same reaction vessel receive the same complex while cells in at least some of the different reaction vessels receive different complexes; and
(e) determining the identity of the at least one complex.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the reporter varies between different complexes and different reporters are disposed to generate different signals; and detecting comprises detecting the signal from the reporter of the at least one complex, the signal from the at least one complex providing an indication of the identity of the compound of the at least one complex.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein different reporters comprise different labels, the different labels selected from the group consisting of a radiolabel, a mass label, a spin label, a fluorophore, a chromophore and a luminescent moiety.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein different reporters comprise substrates for different enzymes expressed within the one or more cells.

40. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein the population of cells is a plurality of different cells, different cells having different distinguishable characteristics, and further comprising determining the identity of the cell to which the at least one complex is bound or internalized from its distinguishing characteristic.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises detecting a signal from a reporter internalized within the one or more cells to identify at least one complex that is internalized within the one or more cells, the compound complexed to the internalized complex being a substrate potentially able to transport an agent into cells expressing a carrier-type transport protein, the method further comprising:

- (a) providing a modified complex, the modified complex comprising the compound identified in the detecting step (d) and an agent;
- (b) contacting one or more cells with the modified complex; and
- (c) determining whether the modified complex is internalized within one of the one or more cells by detecting the modified complex within the one or more cells, such detection providing an indication that the compound can serve as a substrate for transporting agents into cells expressing carrier-type transport proteins.

42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the agent is a pharmaceutical agent.

43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the reporter is attached to the compound of the at least one compound at an attachment site and the pharmaceutical agent replaces the reporter in the modified complex such that the pharmaceutical agent is attached to the attachment site in the modified complex.

44. (withdrawn) The method of claim 43, wherein the providing step comprises synthesizing the modified complex.

45. (withdrawn) The method of claim 43, wherein the modified complex further comprises a reporter attached at a site other than the attachment site.

46. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein contacting results in at least one complex being internalized in a cell, detecting comprises detecting signal from the reporter of the at least one complex and the method further comprises

(a) determining the identity of the compound in the at least one complex detected in step (d);

(b) providing a focused library, the focused library comprising a plurality of complexes, each complex in the focused library comprising a compound that is a variant of the compound identified in step (e);

(c) contacting one or more cells with one or more of the complexes of the focused library, the one or more cells expressing a carrier-type transport protein; and

(d) detecting a signal from a reporter of a complex internalized within one of the one or more cells, the signal providing an indication that the compound of the internalized complex is a substrate for a carrier-type transport protein.

47. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the population of cells has been transformed with a DNA library encoding the one or more transport proteins.

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
isolating a cell that has ~~bound the reporter or~~ internalized the reporter; and
isolating a DNA molecule encoding a carrier-type transport protein from the isolated cell to identify the carrier-type transport protein that exhibits activity with the compound of the complex that is ~~bound to or~~ internalized within the isolated cell.

49. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the carrier-type transport protein is selected from the group of an amino acid transporter, a dipeptide transporter, an oligopeptide transporter, a simple sugar transporter, a bile acid transporter, a vitamin transporter,

a phosphate transporter, a monocarboxylic acid transporter, an organic anion transporter, an organic cation transporter, fatty acid transporter, a nucleoside transporter, and a ABC transporter.

50. (original) The method of claim 49, wherein the transport protein is selected from the group consisting of PEPT1, sodium-dependent glucose transport protein (SGLT1), liver bile acid transporter (NTCP) and ileal bile acid transporter (ASBT).

51. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more carrier-type proteins are endogenous proteins.

52. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more carrier-type proteins are expressed from an exogenous sequence harbored by the population of cells.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cells of the population of cells is selected from the group consisting of Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, VERO cells, HeLA cells, COS-7 cells, MDCK cells, HEK cells, CaCo-2 cells, HCT-8 cells, T84 cells and HT29 cells.

54. (original) The method of claim 53, wherein the cells are treated to yield membrane preparations or vesicles and the complexes are contacted with the membrane preparations or vesicles.

55. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is directly joined to the reporter via a chemical bond.

56. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the complex further comprises a linker joining the test compound and the reporter.

57. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the linker contains a cleavage site.

58. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the linker is a stable linker lacking a cleavage site.

59. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the reporter is selected from the group consisting of a fluorophore, a chromophore, a radioisotope, a magnetic particle, a mass label and a spin label.

60. (withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the reporter is a fluorophore.

61. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the detection step is performed by brightfield, phase contrast or fluorescence microscopy.

62. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the detection step is performed using a confocal microscope.

63. (withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein the confocal microscope has multiple wavelength detection capability.

64. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the different compounds are compounds from a combinatorial library.

65. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the different compounds are variants of a known substrate for a carrier-type transport protein.

66. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the different compounds are small molecules.

67. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of different compounds are peptides.

68. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the population of cells of step (b) comprise a test population and the method further comprises

(a) providing a population of control cells the same as the population of test cells of step (b), except that the control cells fail to express the one or more carrier-mediated type transport proteins; and

(b) repeating steps (c) and (d) with the control cells, wherein a statistically significant difference in the signal from the reporter in the population of test cells relative to the signal from the control cells provides a further indication that the complex whose reporter generated the signal comprises a compound that is a ligand for a carrier-type transport protein.

69. (withdrawn) A method of screening for a carrier-type transport protein and/or a substrate thereto, comprising:

(a) providing one or more cells, each cell expressing a carrier-type transport protein;

(b) contacting the one or more cells with one or more complexes, each complex comprising a compound and a reporter; and

(c) selectively detecting a signal from a reporter internalized within one or more of the cells as compared to signal from reporter outside the cell to indicate that a complex whose reporter generated the signal comprises a compound that is a substrate for a carrier-type transport protein.

70. (withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the reporter comprises a fluorophore and a quencher moiety, and if a compound complexed with the reporter is a substrate for the carrier-type transporter protein, the complex is transported by the carrier-type transport protein into a cell expressing the carrier-type transporter protein, whereby the quencher moiety becomes separated from the fluorophore such that a fluorescent signal is emitted by the fluorophore within the cell, and the detection step comprises detecting the fluorescent signal.

71. (withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized in a cell, the reporter is a fluorophore that fluoresces upon binding to a nucleic acid within the cell, which fluorescence is detected in the detecting step.

72. (withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the reporter comprises a substrate for an enzyme, and if a compound complexed with the reporter is a substrate for the

carrier-type protein, the complex is transported by the carrier-type transport protein into a cell expressing the carrier-type protein and the enzyme, whereby the enzyme metabolizes the substrate to form a detectable product, and the detecting step comprises detecting the detectable product.

73. (withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized in a cell, the reporter promotes aggregation of subunits of a multimeric enzyme expressed within the population of cells, and the enzyme catalyzes production of a product that generates a detectable signal, and detecting comprises detecting the detectable signal.

74. (withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the contacting step results in at least one complex being internalized in a cell, the reporter promotes transcription of a promoter within a cell resulting in expression of an enzyme that catalyzes production of a product that generates a detectable signal, and detecting comprises detecting the detectable signal.

75. (withdrawn) A method of screening for a carrier-type transport protein and/or a ligand thereto, comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of different cells that are located within a single reaction vessel, each cell expressing a carrier-type transport protein, and different cells having different distinguishable characteristics;

(b) contacting the plurality of different cells with one or more complexes, each complex comprising a compound and a reporter, whereby at least one complex is bound to or internalized within one of the cells;

(c) detecting a signal from the reporter of the at least one complex bound to or internalized within the cell in step (b); and

(d) determining the identity of the cell in step (b) from its distinguishable characteristic.

76. (withdrawn) A method of screening for a carrier-type transport protein and/or a ligand thereto, comprising:

- (a) providing one or more cells, each cell expressing a carrier-type transport protein, and located in a single reaction vessel;
- (b) contacting the one or more cells with a plurality of different complexes, each complex comprising a compound and a reporter, the compound and reporter varying between different complexes and different reporters disposed to generate different signals, whereby at least one complex is bound to or internalized within the one or more cells; and
- (c) detecting the signal from the reporter of the at least one complex, the signal providing an indication of the identity of the compound borne by the at least one complex.

77. (withdrawn) A method of screening for a carrier-type transport protein and/or a substrate thereto, comprising:

- (a) providing one or more cells, each cell expressing a carrier-type transport protein;
- (b) contacting the one or more cells with one or more complexes, each complex comprising a compound and a reporter;
- (c) detecting a signal from a reporter internalized within the one or more cells to identify at least one complex that is internalized within the one or more cells, the compound of the internalized complex being a substrate potentially disposed to transport a pharmaceutical agent into a cell via the activity of a carrier-type transport protein;
- (d) preparing a modified complex, the modified complex comprising the compound identified in step (c) and a pharmaceutical agent;
- (e) repeating steps (a) and (b) with the modified complex; and
- (f) determining whether the modified complex is internalized within one of the one or more cells by detecting the modified complex within the one or more cells, such detection providing an indication that the compound of the modified complex can serve as a substrate for transporting a pharmaceutical agent into cells expressing carrier-type transport proteins.

Appl. No. 09/661,927
Amdt. dated August 23, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure Examining Group

PATENT

78-137. (canceled)